

# PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – March 15, 2010

---

## Health Care: Meeting with 11-Year-Old Marcelas Owens

On Tuesday, I sat down with Marcelas Owens, a Washington state boy whose story illustrates the importance of providing health insurance reform. I first met Marcelas during a health care rally last June where he told me that his mother had passed away from Pulmonary Hypertension after losing her health care when she lost her job. I shared Marcelas' story with President Obama during the health care reform summit last month and on the Senate floor and was excited to have him come to Washington, D.C. – [Video](#) | [Photo](#) – Marcelas Tries on Senator Murray's Chair for Size

["Boy who lost mom takes health care story to D.C"](#) – Seattle Times

---

## Economy: Extending Unemployment Insurance and Increasing Relief

On Wednesday, I helped pass the *American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act* that includes Medicaid assistance to help reduce the state budget deficit, provides a safety net for those struggling to get back to work, helps more families afford health insurance, incentivizes businesses to grow and hire and gives Washington taxpayers the fairness they deserve. – [Details](#)

---

## Reauthorizing Summer Jobs Program

On Tuesday, I went to the Senate floor to speak in support of my amendment that would expand and extend the extremely successful summer jobs program that has created hundreds of thousands of jobs, provided a boost to the economy, and changed the lives of so many young people around the country. Unfortunately, Republican Senators obstructed passage of my amendment showing once again that they care more about scoring political points than putting people to work – [Details](#)

["Senate drops funding for summer jobs program and enhanced subsidies for poor families with children"](#)  
– Huffington Post

---

## Howard Hanson and Columbia River Jetties

On Thursday, I pressed top officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on critical issues for Washington state families, including plans to fix the Howard Hanson Dam and bolster the Columbia River jetties. I received assurance that the study being conducted on the Howard Hanson Dam would meet the critical June deadline, which is necessary for the project to be eligible for Fiscal Year 2012 construction funding. I also stressed the importance of including funds to bolster the Columbia River jetties. – [Details](#)

["Corps assures Sen. Murray that Hanson Dam study will hit critical June deadline"](#) – Auburn Reporter

---

## Caring for Service Members and their Families

On Wednesday, I questioned the Surgeons General and Nurse Corps leadership from the Army, Navy and Air Force on the health care needs of our men and women in uniform. I focused my questioning on the needs of National Guard members including those in the 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade headquartered in Washington. I also discussed help for military families including those at Fort Lewis and worked to get answers on what steps are being taken to address the rise in military suicides.

---

## Housing: Examining the Housing Crisis and Foreclosures in Washington State

On Thursday, I questioned Housing Secretary Shaun Donovan on the administration's efforts to stem the tide of the housing and foreclosure crisis in Washington state. I paid particular attention to the difficulties Washington state has faced in areas like Pierce and Clark Counties where foreclosure rates have skyrocketed and home values have declined.

Sign Up for Patty Murray's Washington View: <http://murray.senate.gov/updates>